



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Steven Verhaverbeke, et al

Assignee: APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.

Title: ASSISTED RINSING IN A SINGLE WAFER CLEANING PROCESS

Serial No.: 09/892,130

Confirmation Number Assignment: 1957

Filed: 06/25/2001

Group Art Unit: 1746

Attorney Docket No.: 4733

Examiner: MARKOFF, ALEXANDER

Santa Clara, California
January 14, 2004

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.143

**Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Sir:

The present communication is in response to the Office Action dated December 16, 2003, outlining the Examiner's restriction requirement between groups:

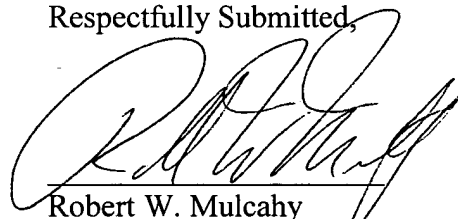
- I. Claims 1-6 drawn to a method, classified in class 134, subclass 26.
- II. Claims 7-12 drawn to a method, classified in class 134, subclass 33.
- III. Claims 13-16 drawn to a method, classified in class 134, subclass 30.
- IV. Claims 21, 23 and 24 drawn to a method, classified in class 134, subclass 19.
- V. Claim 25 drawn to a method, classified in class 134, subclass 1.3.
- VI. Claims 26 and 28-31, drawn to a method, classified in class 134, subclass 33.

In response to the Examiner's requirement of election of claims, Applicant's undersigned Attorney hereby elects Group 1, Claims 1-6 drawn to a method, classified in class 134, subclass 26 for prosecution, with traverse.

Applicant's undersigned attorney invites any direct telephone communication from the Examiner to expedite prosecution of the subject Application.

Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with the filing of this document. However, should a fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1074.

Respectfully Submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service with sufficient postage as first class mail on this date indicated above and is addressed to : MAIL STOP: Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date January 14, 2004



Emma Koh